

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 22nd June 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1729. The following is an extract from the letter of the Nipal correspondent to the *Behar News*:—

BEHAR NEWS,
5th June 1901.

Affairs in Nipal.

The new Maharaja has passed orders to send every news by post free and the postmaster would not like the latter, he would be punished by the Maharaja. The new Maharaja is very kind and general (sic) to the public. He has passed many orders for the good of the subjects and public. We always pray for his long life.

The new Maharaja has granted the title of Governor to his brother, Kharg Samsher Jung Ranabahadur, although the late Maharaja was very angry upon him.

One day a week ago, he has examined the soldiers (Nipali) in parade, and finding them perfect he has granted them all the guns in their hands, with money and clothes. Such a liberal Raja !!!

1730. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* of the 8th June:—

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th May 1901.

The balance of power in Europe.

There is a studied attempt among the principal Governments of the world to readjust the balance of power. We have seen the German Emperor's attempt to be friends with Russia, France, Italy and Holland. England was not counted in the arrangement, and England is, perhaps, uneasy. England's staff of life is now apparently American. So English Royalty condescends to receive American millionaire merchants, and to treat them with lavish hospitality. And at a public function, the English Foreign Minister goes down on his knees and whines, that "no pains must be spared to maintain the most friendly relations with America." It is a pitiful spectacle, and will hasten the downfall of the Salisbury Cabinet.

1731. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* preaches consistency to "those exceedingly moral people," the English, who are shocked

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th June 1901.

Farm burning an un-Christian act.

at farm burning in South Africa. They ought to be prepared to see some un-Christian work done if the work of crushing the two Republics which they have undertaken is to be successfully carried out.

1732. The *Indian Mirror* hears that Lord Kitchener is reported to be already selecting his personal staff with a view to taking command in India in March next. But

INDIAN MIRROR,
15th June 1901.

Lord Kitchener.

the *Mirror* questions if the war in South Africa will be over by then.

"There are still 17,000 Boers in the field. But experience can only point to the conclusion, that they will be a match for the nearly a hundred thousand British troops in the field. But apparently there is no lack of Boer patriotism."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1733. The *Bengalee* of the 9th has another article against Mr. R. Castle,

BENGALIEE,
9th June 1901.

Mr. Castle again.

District Superintendent of Police of Hooghly. This time the complaints are that some constables who takeed for leave were made to stand facing the wall in Mr. Castle's office-room for about five hours, and that respectable tradesmen, who are obliged to appear before Mr. Castle on business, are made to take off their shoes and approach salaaming from the doorway.

1734. The following letter to the Editor appears in the *Bengalee*:—

BENGALIEE,
9th June 1901.

An act of injustice.

SIR,—I beg to bring to light a great injustice which was done in the case of Babu Surendra Nath Batavyal, who was appointed as an Inspector of Police by the Bengal Government. After having been appointed, when he turned up at the Bhagalpur Training School, a telegram was sent to him to the effect that he could not be offered such a post at the outset since it was not sanctioned by the Police rules, consequently he was obliged to be a Sub-Inspector of the first grade. All this was done by the then Inspector-General. Afterwards the matter was communicated to the Bengal Government by Surendra Babu, but to no purpose. The Bengal Government vouchsafed a reply to the effect that he still had a position. The Inspector General wound up the matter by saying that Surendra Babu would be promoted as soon as he would be

pronounced efficient by his superiors. It makes the angels weep to observe that in the case of Europeans the rules are often broken.

MALDA.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

BENGALÉE,
14th June 1901.

1735. With reference to a recent accident at the Barrackpore station, when a Brahmin parcel clerk being killed by a passing train, his body was sent in for *post-mortem*

An objectionable circular.

examination carried by hired domes, which no doubt wounded the feelings of the deceased's relatives and friends, the *Bengalée* complains that the Assistant Inspector-General of Railway Police has issued a circular ordering that "all dead bodies, suicidal or accidental, should invariably be sent for *post-mortem* examination." This circular is against the provisions of section 174, Criminal Procedure Code, which refers only to cases of suspicious death. The attention of the Inspector-General of Police is drawn to this circular.

NOTE.—The Assistant Inspector-General has been addressed on the subject.

BENGALÉE,
14th June 1901.

1736. The *Bengalée* has seen a circular letter on the reform of the Police (No. 5410, dated the 17th May 1901),

The employment of Europeans in the Police.

issued to all District Superintendents by Mr. Knyvett, apparently under the inspiration of

Government, and raises a strong protest against paragraphs 5 and 6, which suggest the wider employment of Europeans as Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for Railway Platform duties, District Reserve charges and Recruiting Depôts.

The journal misses, deliberately or otherwise, the point of Mr. Knyvett's suggestions, and argues the matter on the ground that Europeans are not sufficiently acquainted with the language and customs of the people to be of any use as investigating officers.

"The higher appointments of the Police are now the monopoly of Europeans, and it is now proposed to extend this monopoly even to the inferior appointments."

The *Bengalée* appeals to its Indian contemporaries to record their emphatic protest against this "contemplated expansion of the European agency in the subordinate ranks of the Police."

"Europeans cannot be expected to live on Rs. 50 or even Rs. 100 a month, and we know what will happen."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th June 1901.

1737. A complaint has been made by the Postmaster of Doulatpur,

Serious allegations against the Police.

in the Nadia district, that a constable has forcibly opened two of his mail-bags, and that the local police are forming a conspiracy against him (the postmaster). It is said that Mr. Reily and the Inspector of Kushtia have gone to enquire. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* correspondent promises to communicate the result of enquiry.

NOTE.—The District Superintendent of Nadia has been asked for a report.

BENGALÉE,
13th June 1901.

1738. In the opinion of the *Bengalée*, the Indian Association has done a public service by addressing the Government on the question of Police reform, and other public bodies should follow suit.

The Indian Association and Police reform.

The Association's representation adopts the lines of the Midnapore Conference, whose resolutions constitute the mature judgment of the country, but it takes its stand upon a broader basis and presses for an increase in the number of Indians in the offices of Assistant and District Superintendent of Police, chiefly on the ground of the inefficiency of the Police service which is a natural consequence of the present policy.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1901.

1739. Reverting to the subject of the unpopularity of the police in India

The unpopularity of the Police in India.

the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites a case which was recently tried by the Madras High Court, in which an innocent man sent up by the police as a murderer, and convicted by the Sessions Judge to be hanged, was acquitted by the Judges of the High Court. "Yet neither the police nor the Sessions Judge has lost in the least in the estimation of the Government. They are still in the service—the one to hunt out innocent men, and the other to send them to the gallows as before! As for the Sessions Judge, he could not afford to be a marked man and lose his promotion by acquitting a prisoner sent up by the police!"

(b)—Working of the Courts.

1740. The *East* considers it was not satisfactorily proved that Sullivan was insane at the time he committed the murder. Had he been insane before the murder, he ought not to have been kept in the service. The writer approves of the suggestion made by the *Hindoo Patriot* that all European soldiers should be physically examined periodically.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st June 1901.

The strike of mukhtears at Thakurgaon.

1741. The following telegram appears in the *Bengalee* of the 14th June:—

BENGALÉE,
14th June 1901.

DINAJPUR,
12th June.

The strike of the Thakurgaon mukhtears continues. To-day the mukhtears jointly swore to an affidavit making serious allegations against the Subdivisional Officer. The mukhtears intend petitioning the High Court and the Bengal Government.

1742. Referring to the case in which a Major Cartwright was fined Rs. 10 for assaulting a native, the bearer of Mr. Hicks, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, at the Benares railway station, the *Bengalee* makes the following remarks:—

BENGALÉE,
14th June 1901.

"While we fully admire the Judicial temper displayed by Mr. H. T. Morgan in the trial of this ticklish case, we cannot help thinking that the spirit manifested by the accused son of Mars in the thought which led him to commit the assault, however slight it might be, was most reprehensible, and deserved a severer punishment than the paltry fine of Rs. 10. If anger is, as the Christian scriptures rightly say, secret murder, this spirit of national insolence and hauteur is secret man-slaughter. This is a frame of mind too common in our Anglo-Indian fellow-subjects, which, in the interests of law and order and for the safety of the Empire, ought by every means to be put down. The very fact that cases of slight assaults like the one under notice, do now at all come up before the law Courts shows an altered frame of mind among the lower classes towards their European masters, and unless the Courts put down these assaults with a strong hand, it is not quite inconceivable that the native population may at last, following the example of their rulers and assailants, be goaded to take the law into their own hands. The charm of colour is practically gone. The prestige of the European cloth it will no longer be possible to keep up, in the old way and by old methods. The uniformity of British law has already inspired the lower classes with a sense of power against the strong and the wrong-doer, such as they never felt before. Should the law Courts now fail to give satisfaction, this sense of a new power may assert itself in other less pleasant ways. However, much we may regret it, we cannot help thinking that these unpleasant outbursts of the new power of the people conferred on them by British law, and awakened in them by British Courts of justice, is perhaps the only remedy for the growing evil of rampant Anglo-Indianism, which is so much, and so shamelessly, encouraged by some of the Anglo-Indian journals."

(d)—Education.

1743. Reverting to the pressing demands made in several published writings for reforming the present University system of education in this country, the *Hindoo Patriot* quotes from the second part of Kumar Monmotha Nath Roy Choudhri's pamphlet entitled "A Humble Appeal of a Humble Heart"—a publication that has elicited praise from many men of light and leading—in which the author, "by solid reasoning and good logic vividly describes the defects in the system in question."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
18th June 1901.

Our present system of education.

The passages cited by the *Patriot* refer (1) to boys being made to work contrary to their wishes and love for special subjects, the result proving injurious to their physical, intellectual and moral system; (2) to the Calcutta University, unlike its prototype, the London University, insisting on unsuccessful examinees reading in *all* the subjects instead of those in which they

have failed in their previous attempt, and (3) to the selection of text-books by the Text-book Committee, such selection fostering cramming. In conclusion, the *Patriot* appeals to the public to enter upon a crusade against the existing system of education.

(e)—*Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.*

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th June 1901.

1744. Though the *Indian Mirror* will always support the new Corporation of Calcutta in its efforts to make the city clean and healthy, it protests against the oppression exercised by the Municipal Executive authorities in the enforcement of the Building Regulations and the realisation of rates and taxes.

“Only a few days ago the Calcutta Small Cause Court decided a case against the Corporation, and forced it to refund, with costs, money extorted from a wrong party by the direction and in the immediate presence of the Deputy Chairman of the Corporation. In yet another suit—one under the Building Regulations—the Chairman tendered an unreserved apology and paid, on behalf of the Corporation, the costs of the suit.”

“These scandals,” says the *Mirror*, “are getting much too frequent. The new Municipal Act is calculated to operate with great hardship—and does so operate—to the rate-payers.”

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
9th June 1901.

1745. *Power and Guardian* ‘cannot certainly conceive of a more powerful engine of oppression than the system of collection of rates and taxes that has been adopted under the new Municipal Act.’ The Government, which has forced this bitter pill of legislation down the unwilling throats of the Calcutta rate-payers, makes no safeguard against the possibility of the collectors never calling at all. Then it cannot be expected that the rate-payer will be always able to produce the money at a moment’s notice, and it can hardly be supposed that he will remain indoors up to the 15th of the month, waiting for the collector to come round. The writer suggests the following modifications in the rules:—

- (1) The collector should call twice—once on a day and time of his own choosing, and again at a time and date fixed by the rate-payer who is unable to pay at the first visit.
- (2) At least 24 Ward collection offices should be open, and these should remain open from 7 to 10 in the morning and 5 to 9 in the evening.

BENGALIEE,
9th June 1901.

1746. ‘Despite the protests of Babu Kartik Chundra Mitra, Vice-Chairman of the Midnapore District Board,’ says the *Bengalee*, ‘an attempt was recently made to saddle the District Board with part of the census expenses.’ Under the new Census Act, local funds may be devoted to meeting census expenses, but with regard to the recent controversy, nothing could be more unwise than to saddle the Road Cess Fund with any part of the expenses.

The census is an imperial undertaking and should be paid for out of imperial funds.

The *Bengalee* trusts orders will be issued to exempt local funds from census charges. “Even the smallest contribution from local funds will give rise to serious misapprehension.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th June 1901.

1747. Referring to the proceedings of the meeting of the Calcutta Corporation held on the 5th instant, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says: “Some of the European Commissioners had been specially invited to attend the meeting so that they could swamp the native vote. But this was scarcely necessary, for with the exception of a very few, the new class of Babhans who adorn the Corporation are not very much noted for their patriotism or intelligence.”

With regard to Babu Preonath Mullick’s amendment for the reduction of the salaries of the District Engineers, the *Patrika* says that though “pure whites” will not come to India to take these posts, “poor whites” are available in abundance, “and it goes without saying that the Corporation being now entirely in the hands of the Europeans, persons of European extraction will

be provided with some comfortable berths at the cost of the Indian rate-payers of the city."

"We learn that Babu Preonath Mullick moved a series of amendments, and they were all rejected. Similarly, Babu Amalya Dhone Addy moved a series of amendments, and they were all rejected. This is self-government with a vengeance."

1748. Referring to the compensation awarded to contractors by the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley for the alleged delay on the part of the Corporation to supply the working

Matters municipal.

drawings and land, the *Bengalee* remarks that no enquiry seems to have been made as to the cause of the delay. The rate-payers, who are practically unrepresented on the Corporation, must pay the money. Is the silence on the subject due to the fact that the Engineer's Department is at fault, and the Engineer's Department is manned by highly paid European officers? "The Government held that the old Commissioners were bad and the Executive good. The much-abused Commissioners were ousted and the Executive strengthened. What does the Government think of the Executive now? Will the Government have the candour to pronounce its opinion? Mr. Bright has resigned and Mr. Hughes has retired, but they have left a legacy of municipal mal-administration for which the rate-payers are to suffer. What does the Government care for the poor rate-payers. Rates are realised in these days at the point of the bayonet, so to speak; a widow's tears or an orphan's wailings are of no avail before the relentless tax-gatherer, and that money is partly spent upon paying compensation for the laches of highly paid Executive officers of the municipality. Mr. Bright, the late Chairman, is rewarded with a C.S.I., and a flattering paragraph in a Government Resolution. But alas! What a bright page the Drainage Contracts will fill in the history of his administration. But he belong to the heaven-born service, and the members of the Government also belong to that service, and they form a Mutual Adulation Society. While on this subject, we cannot refrain from noticing one important fact. Under the terms of the contract, the outfall works (Contract II) are to be finished in a certain number of years. The contractors, owing to certain unforeseen causes, were unable to complete the works in that time. They applied to the Corporation for extension of one year's time. They were backed by the Engineer and a member of the General Committee, Mr. Silk. The Commissioners granted the request of the contractors in December last. May we enquire whether this fact was brought to the notice of the arbitrator when the contractors pressed their claim for compensation for delay in furnishing them with working drawings? The contractors are liable to pay a penalty to the Corporation for failure to complete the work within the prescribed time; and they are generously excused the penalty, whereas the Corporation is required to pay compensation for delay in making over the working drawings to the contractors! Everything is possible in the Calcutta Municipality, because it is the poor Indians who form the bulk of the tax-payers!"

1749. "The objects aimed at by the Chairman, the General Committee, the Corporation and the Bengal Government,"

Internal administration of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

says the *Bengalee*, "are undeniably three in number, viz., (1) efficiency, (2) despatch of business, (3) reduction of expenditure where possible."

Since the new Municipal Act has been in operation, no substantial improvement has taken place in these respects. The article goes on to complain of the ignorance and incompetence of the office clerks over whose work there is no proper check; of papers being signed by officers without proper examination, so that, if a mistake is made by an unfortunate clerk, a wrong bill prepared, or an inaccurate draft drawn, the mistake is never discovered. "The machinery of internal administration is clogged by the arbitrary decisions and irregular orders of the Executive, who are apt to resent the slightest opposition to their authority."

"There exists in the municipality all the paraphernalia of forms and appearances; but the direct controlling and supervising staff is careless and inefficient and, in many instances, lazy."

"As regards despatch of business, the Corporation is proverbially notorious for its dilatoriness. The cause of this is the absence of a proper system of organization or co-operation between the various departments."

BENGALIE,
9th June 1901.

BENGALIE,
12th June 1901.

The article then points out the necessity for an independent Accounts Department, without which abuses, laxities and irregularities will continue to occur, and opportunities for fraud and corruption will abound.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BEHAR NEWS,
5th June 1901.

1750. The *Behar News* complains that the Postmaster of Shujaganj refuses to receive registered letters or money-orders or sell stamps between the hours of 9 and 10 A.M.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th June 1901.

1751. The *Hindoo Patriot* in a long article, commencing with more than half a column on the subject of the Queen's Proclamation, complains of the exclusion of Indians from the higher offices of the Postal Department. "There are," says the *Patriot*, "three Assistant Directors-General, two Postmasters-General, one Inspector-General of Railway Mail Service, three Assistant Controllers of Postal Accounts, seven Deputy Postmasters-General, and three Presidency Postmasters, all making up a total of 19 appointments on over Rs. 500 a month. Of these appointments only two are held by natives of India. In addition to the above there are 37 appointments for Postmasters and Assistant Postmasters on salaries ranging from Rs. 250 to Rs. 600, of which only ten are held by natives of India."

There are able Indian officers in the Postal Department, whose abilities have been regularly put to the test, and whose meritorious services have been uniformly recognized, so the *Patriot* fails to see why the higher grade appointments should be the "special privileges, in a way the birthright, of the Europeans and Eurasians."

The writer quotes an instance of an European being specially favoured: Mr. J. B. Barker, a Superintendent of Post-offices, drawing Rs. 250 a month, was given the Postmastership of Allahabad, on Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 in direct supersession of the claims of those who were in the grade of Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 a month.

(h)—*General.*

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th June 1901.

1752. The *Indian Empire*, mentioning the fact that, of the 19 dispensaries in which the attendance was found to be most largely reduced in 1900, sixteen were in the Patna Division and Monghyr says, "The falling off in these was undoubtedly due to the alarm excited by the prevalence of plague."

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th June 1901.

1753. The *Indian Empire*, reproducing from the *Hitabadi* the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke's confidential letter on the subject of employment of Eurasians in ministerial offices, calls to memory the words of Lord Curzon that the Eurasians should depend on "self-help" and "bear their full share in the work-day competition of modern life." That mild rebuke by the Viceroy was soon after followed by a Government Resolution in which His Excellency granted to the Eurasians special facilities for service in the Military Department; and a further circular was issued to all responsible heads of departments directing that the claims of "poor whites" must be superior to those of all others. To the issuing of the latter, however, His Excellency gave an unqualified denial.

If the Government are anxious to improve the condition of the "poor whites," why should they do so at the expense of other members of the community? If Eurasians cannot enter Government service by the open door of competitive examination, the examination should be done away with altogether. The *Empire* asks why Lord Curzon cannot stick to the advice of self-help which he gave to the Eurasians when they sought His Excellency's patronage for State employment.

BEHAR NEWS,
5th June 1901.

1754. "A correspondent" writes to the *Behar News* complaining that the Bengali Babu in charge of the Census Office is daily forming rules and regulations to deprive his Behari subordinates of their full pay. Almost all the high posts are said to be given to Bengalis, simply because the head of the office is one of them.

The writer hopes his complaint will meet the eye of Mr. Gait, who is supposed to be "a best model man."

1755. The *Behar News* leads up to the subject of the representation of Bhagalpur in the Council by a discussion on the blessings of the reconstituted and enlarged Councils and the privilege of interpellation. It then repeats its complaint of the injustice done to "Poor-down-trodden this division of ours," by its practical disenfranchisement. The recent decision of the Government is said to be "in wanton conflict of the Indian Councils Act."

BEHAR NEWS,
5th June 1901.

1756. The *Indian Mirror* devotes a column of its issue of the 9th to a protest against the proposed abolition of the Bankura district, which, it considers, would be little short of a public calamity, and will upset all social and economic order.

INDIAN MIRROR,
9th June 1901.

1757. *Power and Guardian* looks upon those who are prone to regard the native press as spreading sedition in the country, as a set of monumental fools. If there is any party in India that may be said to create disaffection and excite hatred in the people against the Government, it is the Anglo-Indian Press and officialdom. "The *Englishman* openly invited his *jathbais* to maltreat, offend, kill and hang the native niggers, and the Government maintains a solid silence. Had the same offence been committed by a native journalist ... his office would by this time have been rummaged by detectives and he himself would have been put safely behind the bars as a guest of His Majesty. If the proverb 'Rome was not built in a day' has any significance, this short-sighted policy of the rulers will yet cost them dear."

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
9th June 1901.

1758. *Power and Guardian* publishes an account of the unprovoked assault alleged to have been committed by Mr. Irving, a Plague Officer of the Punjab, on two Punjabi gentlemen, and that same officer's order on the President of the Public Association to appear before him daily at 10 o'clock. It is to be wondered that Sir Mackworth Young, from his position in the cool, balmy heights of Simla, has no time to take notice of the doings of his subordinate. *Power and Guardian* fears there is "much truth in what the *Tribune* says about the growing feeling in the Punjab, that its ruler does not now take that interest in the administration which is expected of His Honour, and the failure of which marks him as unfit to hold the reins of Government."

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
9th June 1901.

The very fact that the plague rules have been modified is proof that they needed modification. General complaint is made of the way in which the Plague Administration is being carried on in the Punjab, and it is suggested that complaint of the grievance should be carried to England.

1759. Referring to the letter from a retired Civil Servant recently published in its columns, *vide* paragraph 1717, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, this letter is in many respects even more remarkable than Mr. Pennell's judgment. The Black Knight shows he is one who retired from the service, because he found that by his fearlessness and independence he had made himself an object of displeasure. He has now unreservedly disclosed the secret of the deep discontent that prevails in the country. He tells us "there are flagrant and gross abuses which at present disgrace our administration of India." The Indians have been telling this 'ever since their newspapers learned to talk,' and now their view is supported by one, an Englishman, a civilian, who has risen 'from the lowest ladder to a very high position.'

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th June 1901.

The *Patrika* then rejoices in the assertions of the Black Knight that Magistrates and Judges are regarded as able according to the number of men they convict.

The article concludes by asking when Englishmen will learn, that in their zeal to stamp out crimes they are only emasculating their helpless dependents.

"The Indian is getting day by day sheepish and nervous; he has a hunted look; he lives as if in the midst of constant danger. This must be the result, when the acquittal of an accused person is regarded as a calamity."

BENGALÉE,
12th June 1901.

1760. The *Bengalée* complains that the Subdivisional Officer of Madhipura, whose high-handed proceedings in the case of Babu Rash Behari Mundle were recently complained of by the press, has just been given summary powers.

"It seems," says the *Bengalée*, "that in these days the adverse criticisms of the press are an advantage to the public officers concerned."

BENGALÉE,
12th June 1901.

1761. The *Bengalée* says there is no part of Lord George Hamilton's policy which is less defensible than the restriction of Indian candidates passing out of Cooper's Hill. The explanation put forward in Parliament and in his letter to Mr. Naraoji, namely, that the average of Indians passing has hitherto been one per annum, and that in restricting the number to two he has doubled the average, is unsatisfactory. By a similar process of reasoning Lord George might persuade himself that no injustice would be done in restricting the number of Indian candidates to be admitted to the Civil Service. "A minister of the Crown, pledged by the oath of his office to support the Queen's Proclamation and to carry on the Government in accordance with that Proclamation, deliberately sets it aside, imparts an invidious distinction of race, and then has the hardihood to publicly defend his conduct."

BENGALÉE,
15th June 1901.

1762. The *Bengalée* learns that the papers in connection with the case in which Mr. Foley recently described certain remarks of the senior Deputy Magistrate of Burdwan as "silly," have been submitted to the High Court, before whom the case is pending. But Mr. Foley has deliberately withheld the papers in which the remarks occur. The *Bengalée* calls on Mr. Foley to withdraw the remarks and apologise to the Deputy Magistrate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1901.

1763. The arguments brought forward by the Government to silence the people of Bhagalpur, are, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, not very convincing, and it would have been better if the Government had frankly confessed that it had committed a blunder in disfranchising the Dacca Division, in consequence of which measure, Bhagalpur, like some other divisions, was bound to suffer.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th June 1901.

1764. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* criticises the judgment on the plague riot case at Ballia, in which the Sessions Judge of Ghazipur characterized as idiotic, the notion entertained by the people that the Government was spreading disease in order to reduce the population of India. In attempting to account for the prevalence of this "idiotic" idea, which at all events proves conclusively that there is a deep and widespread discontent and distrust among the masses, the writer hints that it is the result of the heartless and unsympathetic attitude assumed by Englishmen towards the natives of the soil.

In this very Ballia case, the writer in the *Patrika* goes on to say, if Mr. Fox, whose chaprassi had been stopped and searched by the villagers "under the sincere conviction that he was carrying poison," had passed over the so-called insult to his servant, there would have been no riot. Having chosen to act otherwise, who then, asks the writer, was the guilty party who provoked the row that ensued as a matter of course?

The ferocious manner in which as a rule plague rioters are punished is not likely to cure the ignorant masses of their "idiotic" notion.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th June 1901.

1765. Referring to an article addressed by Captain A. St. John to the *Daily Chronicle*, stating that it is the duty of Liberals to enquire into the truth of the statements that Indians are getting impoverished and losing their manhood, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says: "It is the duty of every Englishman, especially Anglo-Indian officials and non-officials, Magistrates and merchants, to see whether it is a fact or not that the Indians are day by day getting impoverished and emasculated and the higher classes vanishing rapidly."

"The Indians are trying to better their condition by holding Congresses under the auspices of some liberal-minded Englishmen, the authorities are enacting sedition laws to keep the natives of the soil under proper restraint. Are not these efforts ridiculous, considering that the very existence of the people is in jeopardy?"

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1766. Referring to an article in the *Indian Nation* on the Indian National Congress, the *East* says: "Though no ardent admirers of that creation of our educated country-

INDIAN NATION,
1st June 1901.

men, we have always wished well of that important institution, and it is in this spirit of friendliness we have sometimes found fault with its annual proceedings."

The *East* then remarks that it has always regarded the Congress as having no continuity, all the members settling into apathy after the annual meeting, the proceedings being followed by no appreciable results. It agrees with the *Nation*, that a serious and sound literature is required to keep alive the interest during the year, and expresses hearty approval of the opinion that the ideal Congressman should not be one who behaves defiantly and rebelliously, but one who would act honestly and independently for his country's welfare, &c., &c.

1767. The *Indian Empire* takes from the *Statesman* an account of a case from the Madras Presidency, in which two European planters are said to have beaten a horse-keeper, and tied him to a tree. On returning they found him dead, whereupon they burnt the corpse and said nothing about it. This paragraph is introduced as "another case of alleged murder of an Indian by Europeans."

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th June 1901.

1768. *Power and Guardian* tells the story of the alleged killing of a native by two European planters in the Madras Presidency. This journal's version is that the planters deliberately hanged the groom until he was dead and cut down his body the next morning.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
9th June 1901.

1769. The following paragraph is taken from the *Behar News*:—

On the last *Dashara* day two Europeans were on holiday excursion with a pack of hounds in the *deara* opposite the Patna Judge's Court. The hounds were set on a pariah dog, which tried to take shelter behind a priest who was then offering *puja* on the bank of the Ganges. The poor priest fearing pollution tried to keep back the dogs. This so enraged one of the Europeans, that he struck the poor priest hard with his stick. This gentleman, we hear, is an officer in the Opium Department.

BEHAR NEWS,
5th June 1901.

1770. The *Bengalee* publishes an extract from the *Civil and Military Gazette*, in support of what it has said itself, of the extortionate way in which subscriptions to the Victoria Memorial Fund are being collected in some places, and begs that Government will now move in the matter, and earnestly set about nipping the evil in the bud.

BENGAL EE,
9th June 1901.

1771. The Rangpur correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes an account of a cowardly assault committed by three up-countrymen on Mr. Paoli, a young Frenchman, travelling on behalf of the Western Trading Company, Calcutta. The ruffians are said to have been employed to beat Mr. Paoli, by a zamindar with whom he had had some disagreement over the repair of a bicycle. They stopped the European." gharry, dragged him out, and thrashed him, fracturing a part of his skulls. Some villagers ran up to Mr. Paoli's assistance, but one only of the perpetrators of the deed was arrested.

BENGAL EE,
9th June 1901.

NOTE. - District Superintendent of Police, Rangpur, has been asked for a full report.

1772. The *Bengalee* states that already one of the British soldiers posted to Trichinopoly to guard the Boer prisoners has come into hot conflict with some villagers three miles from the camp. The story of the villagers is that they had to beat the soldier in order to rescue from him a woman he was seeking to outrage. The matter is under enquiry. The *Bengalee* hears that a special

BENGAL EE,
9th June 1901.

force of police has been requisitioned to keep the villagers in check and protect British soldiers against violence. "What a humiliating spectacle!" says the *Bengalee*, "Those who have been sent to guard the Boer prisoners are themselves in need of protection against a combination of native villagers."

"Time must be taken by the forelock, and steps ought to be taken immediately for keeping a British soldier at a safe distance from the village woman. Of late elaborate rules were framed and published, regulating the conduct of the British soldier. Will the Viceroy kindly enquire if any of those regulations were violated in connection with this incident, and if so, who is or are to be held responsible."

INDIAN MIRROR,
9th June 1901.

Preaching in Calcutta.

1773. The following letter has been addressed to the *Indian Mirror*:—

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE INDIAN MIRROR."]

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to publish this letter in your newspaper? A Punjabi has been lately preaching against Christianity, Brahmoism, Muhammadanism and also Buddhism in Calcutta. Is it the duty of a Hindu to attack any religion? It is said in the Hindu Shastras, that one who attacks another's religion is not a religious man. One day the Punjabi went so far as to accost a Christian Missionary and abuse him. He called Keshub Chunder Sen a humbug, also attacked the Koran once in the College Square park. A large number of Mussalmans began to gather in order to prevent him from doing so. He was at last obliged to take to his heels. But the Christians and Brahmos are very innocent people. I regret that I found in the conduct of some school and college boys by whom mostly the park is always crowded, what was very unbecoming. The Christians and Brahmos now entirely depend upon the protection of the Police Commissioner. I hope, he would be kind enough to prevent the Punjabi from preaching against any religions publicly.

Yours, &c.,
S. P. J.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th June 1901.

1774. Referring to a case in which Lal Shiva Das, a pleader of Ferozepore, was convicted and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for bribing witnesses and subsequently acquitted by the Sessions Judge, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says the crime supposed to have been committed was that of bribing witnesses to save a distinguished friend, an act prompted by generous impulses. A light punishment should be meted out on such occasions, yet the trying Magistrate was not satisfied with less than two years' rigorous imprisonment, which the *Patrika* believes to be the highest punishment provided by the law for such offences. Lal Shiva Das was subsequently found to be innocent.

Yet Deputy Magistrate Mr. Fordyce, who was found guilty of taking illegal gratifications was never even put on his trial.

"The children of the soil are thus presented with two unique spectacles. Even when innocent they are oftentimes sent to jail, but the Europeans even when convicted of a crime on unimpeachable evidence, are either let off scot-free, or with a very light punishment. Need anybody wonder why the manhood of the Indian nation is forsaking them?"

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
9th June 1901.

1775. *Power and Guardian* says, "The cooly-recruiter continues to ply his nefarious trade and heart-rending tales of sorrow, deception, privation and outrage reach me from the recruiting districts, which often lead me to doubt if we are living under the benign British Government."

The writer then quotes from the *Bankura Darpan*, two cases of alleged outrage—one in which a girl, called Nisi, was drugged and confined, but subsequently rescued, and another in which a woman, named Nicoda Loharni, was induced by false pretences to leave home and is now serving out her term in the Deomalia garden in Dibrughur.

NOTE.—The District Superintendent, Bankura has been addressed on the subject.

1776. The following is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

Military expenditure.

If the Boer and China wars have proved disastrous to the contending parties, they have proved a windfall to this country, for they have relieved the India Government of the maintenance cost of a large body of soldiers, whose services have been required in South Africa and China. It is now premature to calculate the savings thus effected. They have, however, been averaged since April 1st to about 10 lakhs monthly. India, it is now admitted on all hands, is the poorest country in the world, yet it must maintain a huge army which is not at all needed either for keeping internal peace or for averting external aggression, but only for serving Imperial purposes—only to help England in her wars with the foreign countries in times of emergency. Such a spectacle history, either ancient or modern, has never presented.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th June 1901.

1777. Referring to the three grievances of the carters and *ticca ghari-*
The carters and *ghariwallas'* *wallas*, as represented by them the Commissioner
strike. of Police, Calcutta, the *Bengalee* remarks as follows.

BENGALÉE,
9th June 1901.

(1) With regard to the alleged heavy fining by the Municipal Magistrate:—

"Since the creation of the new Court, quite a reign of terror prevails in the city, and the worst anticipations of the rate-payers are being gradually fulfilled The heavy fines inflicted upon the people have made them writhe in agony The crusade that is waged against the *goalas*, and stable and cattle-shed keepers by the Municipal underlings, is such that we shall not be surprised to find that it has reached a climax It is impossible, nay, quite beyond the means of the majority of the shed owners, to carry out what is required under the present law. Hence these illiterate men cannot but come to terms with the subordinate officers of the Municipality, and those who cannot afford to do so are brought up before the Municipal Magistrate and heavily fined."

As to what should be done to allay the feeling of discontent which prevails amongst these men, the writer suggests that instead of inflicting ruinous fines upon them, the Municipal authorities should meet them half way. "Let every cowshed or cattle-shed be properly paved and drained, and, where necessary, let water connection be enforced. Let a sufficient number of windows and doors be provided in every shed for ventilation. Let every shed be kept clean and thoroughly washed. Let the above improvements and similar others, compatible with the means and resources of these men, be enforced, and we are sure that in the majority of cases they would be carried out. Let no improvements at prohibitive cost be insisted upon, for then you defeat the very object you have in view. If a tactful, conciliatory and sympathetic person is entrusted with this task, we feel sure much good will be effected, and the present irritation allayed."

Regarding the second grievance, the harassment the men receive at the hands of the S. P. C. A. agents, the writer prays that the powers vested in these men may not be allowed to be converted into handles of arbitrary oppression and, finally, with reference to the terrorism exercised by the red *pugree wallas*, the *Bengalee* is confident that the evil will be discouraged, if not altogether suppressed, if Mr. Showers will only take vigorous measures.

1778. Referring to the grievances of the *ghariwallas* and *sagarwallas* now on strike in Calcutta, the *Indian Mirror* says,

INDIAN MIRROR,
11th June 1901.

Ibid.

"We have reason to believe that they do not wholly lie.... Representations have been made to us from time to time by independent parties of the oppression practised systematically on the people now on strike, by the lower police and some officers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,—statements which can be verified, but, perhaps, will not admit of legal proof."

1779. With reference to the strike of Calcutta cartmen and *ticca ghari-*
wallas, the *Bengalee* says:—

BENGALÉE,
12th June 1901.

Ibid.

"The strikers complain that what with the inexorable necessity of greasing the itching palms of the Police and the agents of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the very heavy fines inflicted by the Municipal Magistrate, the game is no longer worth the candle, and they mean to retire from the business. We have no reason to

think that these complaints are not only too well-founded, and they certainly demand speedy redress, the more so as the strikers are unquestionably masters of the situation. Is there no one in Calcutta to promptly deal with such a situation? Here is a striking illustration of the advantages of ruling the country from remote and inaccessible hill-tops."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th June 1901.

1780. The *Hindoo Patriot* does not approve of the strike of Calcutta *ghariwallas*, and has no sympathy with the strikers, but considers that, as the *ghariwallas* have set forth their grievances, there ought to be a thorough enquiry by the Commissioner of Police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th June 1901.

1781. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is enthusiastic in praise of Lord Curzon's recent speech at the meeting of the Simla Army Temperance Association. 'The Viceroy's sentiments regarding the British soldiers are the *Patrika's* own.

"It is altogether a cruel and unnatural arrangement to keep 75,000 Britishers confined in a country like India, far from home and all dear associations, and subject them not only to its deadly climate, but to various temptations which convert many of them, though originally the best specimens of humanity, into perfect demons."

The *Patrika* considers the sending of such a large number of men to India is bad for the commercial progress of England, and bad for the health of that country too owing to the germs of foul diseases being spread by the home-returned soldiers.

It considers the best remedy would be to guard India by Indian troops under European control, or to send all bachelor soldiers home and have only married ones in India.

"It is impossible to check drunkenness and other concomitant vices among soldiers, by merely furnishing them with better ventilated barracks and electric punkhas, so long as they are allowed to lead an idle and purely animal life."

AMRITA BAZAR,
PATRIKA,
15th June 1901.

1782. One Lalit Mohan Ghosal, of Cossipore, writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complaining of the shooting of monkeys by the Roman Catholic *Padris* at Dum-Dum. The *Patrika* hopes the attention of the authorities of the 24-Parganas district will be drawn to this objectionable conduct on the part of the missionaries, who kill these sacred animals merely for fun, even on Sundays.

NOTE - The attention of the District Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, has been drawn to this, as if the allegations are true and the practice is continued by the missionaries, it may lead to trouble.

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th June 1901.

1783. The following appears in the *Indian Mirror* of the 16th June:—

The Tinnevely troubles. "That there are unquestionable indications that the ill-feeling which last year resulted in a faction fight between the Maravars and Shanars of Tinnevely in South India has by no means disappeared. Rumour points to a recrudescence of the doings of last year, and it is to be hoped that the authorities are alive to the existing state of things in view to preventing further mischief."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 22nd June 1901.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.